



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

4600 Giant Springs Rd.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
May 12, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to notify you that I have made a decision regarding Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) implementation of a grazing lease renewal on a portion of the Beckman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and neighboring Roe Ranch. My decision is to move forward with the proposed action. The 7,616-acre grazing lease will allow for the removal of vegetation by grazing as a management tool to enhance the subsequent availability and palatability of forage on that portion of the Beckman WMA as described in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

There were no public comments received which addressed the proposed action. The enclosed Decision Notice stipulates my decision. No modifications have been made to the Draft EA after consideration of public input. Please consider your previous copy of the EA along with the stipulations of the Decision Notice as final.

It is my recommendation to move forward with the proposed grazing lease renewal on a 4,921-acre portion of the Beckman WMA and adjoining 2,695-acres of the Roe Ranch. The final decision will be made at the Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting in June, 2017.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Bertellotti", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary Bertellotti  
Region 4 Supervisor  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks  
4600 Giant Springs Rd.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840  
[gbertellotti@mt.gov](mailto:gbertellotti@mt.gov)



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

### **DECISION NOTICE**

#### **Beckman WMA-Roe Ranch Cooperative Grazing Lease**

Region 4 Headquarters  
4600 Giant Springs Rd.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) proposes to renew a cooperative grazing lease on 4,921 acres of the Beckman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and adjoining 2,695 acres of the Roe Ranch, northeast of Denton, MT. This lease agreement would continue the use of prescriptive livestock grazing as a habitat management tool on the WMA while positively influencing privately-managed wildlife habitat.

#### **MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PUBLIC PROCESS AND COMMENT:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is required by MEPA to assess potential impacts of its proposed actions to the human and physical environments, evaluate those impacts through an interdisciplinary approach, including public input, and make a decision based on this information. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review of this proposal on April 14, 2017 and accepted public comment until 5:00 P.M. on May 12, 2017.

Notice of the proposal and availability of the Draft EA was published in the *Lewistown News-Argus* and *Great Falls Tribune*. Copies of the Draft EA were distributed to neighboring landowners and interested individuals, groups, and agencies to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project. The EA was available for public review on MFWP's website (<http://fwp.mt.gov/>, "Public Notices") from April 14, 2017 through May 12, 2017. An MFWP statewide news release was issued April 14, 2017 and posted on MFWP's website the same day.

#### **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks received a total of one comment (via email), which did not address issues or concerns with the proposed action. It addressed livestock grazing on unrelated DNRC lands. No further response to that comment is pertinent here.

#### **DECISION NOTICE**

Using the EA and public comment, a Decision Notice must be rendered by MFWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed action.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' analysis supports renewing the cooperative grazing lease agreement for an additional six years.

I find there to be no significant impacts to the human and physical environments associated with this project. Therefore, I conclude that the EA is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

After review of this proposal, it is my decision to accept the Draft EA as final, and to recommend the renewal of the cooperative grazing lease on the Beckman WMA.

The Final EA may be viewed on MFWP's website, or be obtained upon request from MFWP's Region 4 Headquarters.

May12, 2017

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Bertellotti".

Gary Bertellotti  
Region 4 Supervisor

